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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A.

Washington, D. C.

SS-172

March 22, 1957

## Farmers Indicate Greatly Reduced Acreage

Farmers planting intentions, March 1, indicate a total crop acreage this year (59 crops) of about 334 million acres. This would be 12 million acres less than last year and the smallest crop acreage since World War I.

## Smaller Acreage for Food Grains

Major reductions in prospect for spring wheat and rice will further shrink food grain acreage already reduced by winter wheat plantings. Feed grain acreage may be slightly larger than in '56, from increases in sorghum and barley which offset decreases in acreage of corn and oats.

## Principal Changes from Last Year

Biggest prospective drop is in corn, about 4 million acres less than last year. Spring wheat may be decreased 3.5 million acres, oats 1.1 million, rice 0.2 million and tobacco 0.2 million acres. Larger plantings than last year are expected for all sorghums, maybe up about 5 million acres. Barley may be up 1.3 million acres. Soybean acreage expansion will continue, the increase this year about 0.8 million.

Here is a rundown of prospective acreages, showing the percentage change for this year compared with last year:

Crop	Planted 1956	Indi- cated 1957	Increase or decrease
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Corn, all.....	78,557	74,410	-5.3
All spring wheat.....	16,244	12,784	-21.3
Durum.....	2,551	1,713	-32.8
Other spring.....	13,693	11,071	-19.1
Oats.....	44,648	43,514	-2.5
Barley.....	14,712	16,008	+8.8
Flaxseed.....	5,862	5,839	-.4
Rice.....	1,598	1,440	-9.9
Sorghums.....	21,503	26,490	+23.2
Potatoes.....	1,412	1,421	+.6
Sweetpotatoes.....	291	282	-3.1
Tobacco <sup>1</sup> .....	1,366	1,132	-17.2
Beans, dry edible.....	1,460	1,466	+.4
Peas, dry field.....	361	355	-1.7
Soybeans <sup>2</sup> .....	21,970	22,745	+3.5
Peanuts <sup>2</sup> .....	1,844	1,834	-.5
Hay <sup>1</sup> .....	73,627	72,766	-1.2
Sugar Beets.....	831	912	+9.8

<sup>1</sup>Acreage harvested.

<sup>2</sup>Grown alone for all purposes.

## Plans May be Altered Before Planting

Acreages actually planted in 1957 may turn out to be larger or smaller than indicated. Various reasons, such as weather and price changes, lead farmers to alter their plans. The Crop Reporting Board issues the intentions report in order to assist growers in making such further

acreage changes as may appear desirable. By studying the full report and the comments on the different crops, farmers are able to get some idea of how much or how little is likely to be produced for market under the prospective planting schedules (see "Prospective Plantings for 1957," issued by AMS Crop Reporting Board, March 18).

## Intentions Indicate Small Wheat Crop

If yields per planted acre this year equal the 1951-55 average, by States, and acreage planted equals that indicated by farmers as of March 1, an all spring wheat crop of 175 million bushels would be produced. This compares with a production of 262 million bushels in 1956. Based on conditions as of December 1, 1956, a winter wheat crop of 625 million bushels was indicated for 1957. These add to a possible all wheat total of 800 million bushels, compared with the all wheat production of 997 million bushels in 1956.

## Corn Prospects Unsettled

At indicated acreage and average yields, by States, corn production this year would amount

## Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average prices received by farmers		Effective parity prices
	Jan. 15, 1957	Feb. 15, 1957	Feb. 15, 1957
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.)..... ct.	30.21	30.16	36.81
Wheat (bu.)..... dol.	2.09	2.07	2.50
Rice (100 lb.)..... dol.	4.57	4.81	5.73
Corn (bu.)..... dol.	1.23	1.19	1.81
Peanuts (lb.)..... ct.	11.1	11.1	13.6
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Butterfat in cream (lb.)..... ct.	59.1	59.0	73.5
Milk, wholesale (100 lb.)..... dol.	4.44	4.34	4.79
Wool (lb.)..... ct.	247.2	247.5	65.0
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.)..... dol.	1.05	1.03	1.35
Cottonseed (ton)..... dol.	60.40	58.60	71.40
Flaxseed (bu.)..... dol.	3.04	2.95	4.53
Hay, baled (ton)..... dol.	22.90	22.50	24.80
Oats (bu.)..... dol.	.752	.728	.870
Potatoes (cwt)..... dol.	1.56	1.41	2.44
Rye (bu.)..... dol.	1.22	1.15	1.66
Sorghum, grain (100 lb.)..... dol.	2.13	2.09	2.64
Soybeans (bu.)..... dol.	2.31	2.25	3.00
Sweetpotatoes (cwt)..... dol.	4.67	4.73	5.20
Oranges, on tree (box)..... dol.	1.47	1.75	2.57
Apples, for fresh use (bu.)..... dol.	3.24	3.26	2.87
Beef cattle (100 lb.)..... dol.	14.90	14.90	22.30
Calves (100 lb.)..... dol.	16.60	17.30	24.50
Hogs (100 lb.)..... dol.	17.30	16.30	21.80
Lambs (100 lb.)..... dol.	18.00	18.40	24.80
Chickens, all (lb.)..... ct.	17.1	18.4	28.4
Eggs (dozen)..... ct.	33.2	32.8	47.6

<sup>1</sup>Preliminary.

<sup>2</sup>Does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to 62 cents per pound.

to 2.9 billion bushels compared with the 1956 crop of 3.5 billion and the 10-year average of 3.1 billion bushels. For various reasons, final acreage for corn is not easy to predict this early in the year. Some farmers may reduce still more. Many Corn Belt growers may plant their usual acreage.

### Oats and Barley

Seedings of oats made last fall and planned for spring indicate a 43.5 million-acre total for 1957--3 percent under last year's total plantings and 1 percent below average. Barley, sown last fall and indicated to be sown this spring, would amount to 16 million acres--9 percent above last year and nearly a third above average; except for 1955, would be largest planted barley acreage since 1943.

### Intentions as to Hay

Appraising the prospective carry-over and needs for hay as of March 1, farmers and ranchers indicated their intentions to harvest 72.8 million acres of all hay in 1957...less than either the 1956 or the 10-year average of 73.6 and 74.2 million acres harvested, respectively. If the intentions materialize the 1957 acreage will be the smallest since 1948.

### Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	January 1956	January 1957
<u>Dairy Production</u>			
Milk.....	Bil. lb.	119.3	119.2
Evaporated whole milk .....	Mil. lb.	164	162
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food).....	Mil. lb.	120.1	120.9
Butter, creamery .....	Mil. lb.	114.2	116.4
Cheese, American .....	Mil. lb.	65.1	69.3
Ice cream .....	Mil. gal.	41.1	42.3
<u>Poultry Production</u>			
Eggs .....	Billions	110.3	110.4
Poultry meat <sup>2</sup> .....	Mil. lb.	293	342
Canned poultry.....	Mil. lb.	16.4	17.1
Liquid egg.....	Mil. lb.	8.9	24.5
Dried egg (egg solids) .....	Mil. lb.	.7	2.2
Frozen egg.....	Mil. lb.	6.8	14.1
Chicks hatched-Total <sup>3</sup> .....	Millions	1349	1334
Chicks hatched-Broiler <sup>3</sup> .....	Millions	1226	1243
Poults hatched <sup>3</sup> :			
Heavy breeds.....	Millions	16.9	18.8
Light breeds.....	Millions	1.7	11.8
<u>Meat Production<sup>2</sup></u> (dressed weight)			
Beef.....	Mil. lb.	1,229	1,324
Veal.....	Mil. lb.	115	127
Pork .....	Mil. lb.	1,061	913
Lamb and mutton.....	Mil. lb.	72	72
Total red meat .....	Mil. lb.	2,477	2,436
<u>Slaughter<sup>2</sup></u>			
Cattle.....	1,000 head	2,256	2,473
Calves.....	1,000 head	968	1,068
Hogs .....	1,000 head	8,060	6,880
Sheep and lambs.....	1,000 head	1,492	1,489

<sup>1</sup> January-February

<sup>2</sup> Commercial; excludes farm slaughter.

<sup>3</sup> By commercial hatcheries.

### Smaller Plantings, Summer and Fall Potatoes

If intentions to plant materialize, the 1957 planted acreage of potatoes for late summer and fall harvest (about four-fifths of total U. S. acreage) will be 2 percent less than in 1956. Adding on the prospective early spring, late spring and early summer acreages would give a total of 1,420,800 acres for 1957, about 1 percent above the acreage planted in 1956. Intended acres at average yields would result in a National production of 226,577,000 cwt., which would compare with 243,238,000 cwt. harvested in 1956 and the 1949-55 average of 226,458,000 cwt.

Winter crop, now mostly harvested, is nearly a third larger than last year--6.9 million cwt. against last year's 5.3 million.

### Crop Conditions Mainly Favorable

Developments affecting crops were mainly favorable over major areas during February.

### Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

Item	1956			1957	
	Feb.	Yr.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) <sup>1</sup> .....	57.1	58.4	59.4	57.6	58.0
Farm employment .....	5.8	7.9	5.8	5.4	5.6
Family .....	4.8	6.0	4.8	4.5	4.6
Hired .....	1.0	1.9	1.0	.9	1.0
Index number (1947-49=100)					
Industrial production <sup>2</sup> .....	143	143	147	146	146
Total personal income payments <sup>3</sup> .....	157	161	165	166	---
Weekly factory earnings <sup>4</sup> .....	158	161	171	165	165
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker <sup>4</sup> .....	148	151	159	155	156
Wholesale prices, all commodities <sup>4</sup> .....	112	114	116	117	117
Farm commodities .....	86	88	89	89	89
Food, processed .....	99	102	103	104	104
Consumer price index <sup>4</sup> .....	115	116	118	118	---
Food .....	109	112	113	113	---
Index numbers (1910-14=100)					
Prices received by farmers .....	227	236	237	238	234
Crops .....	233	242	240	239	233
Food grains.....	220	224	234	236	235
Feed grains and hay.....	173	185	185	187	181
Cotton .....	262	268	262	256	255
Tobacco .....	452	453	461	457	458
Oil bearing crops .....	239	250	264	266	260
Fruit .....	212	225	216	227	221
Vegetables for fresh market.....	264	254	277	249	225
Livestock and products .....	220	230	234	237	234
Meat animals .....	215	238	239	254	249
Dairy products .....	257	259	275	269	266
Poultry and eggs .....	188	177	165	155	157
Prices paid by farmers:					
All commodities .....	259	264	268	269	271
Used in living .....	272	278	283	283	284
Used in production .....	245	249	252	255	256
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index) .....	280	286	290	292	294
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted .....	522	536	550	554	554
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index) .....	81	83	82	82	80

<sup>1</sup> Bureau of the Census.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Commerce.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Reserve Board.

<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics



Rain or snow fell in telling amounts over much, but not all, of the critically dry Great Plains States. Other areas gained in soil moisture supplies. Mild, open weather saved feed, aided livestock production and pushed forage growth in early sections.

### Moisture Still Scarce in Plains Areas

As of March 1, soil moisture remained scarce in the central Great Plains as well as southward, and also eastward across most of Iowa.

Irrigation in the central Great Plains continues to expand with more wells already starting pumping for the season. Mountain snows in extensive areas in California and Arizona melted some during February and soaked into dry soils; late snows were still hoped for to build irrigation water supplies.

### Smaller Winter Vegetable Output

Winter vegetable production is expected to be 13 percent less than in 1956 with largest reductions in cabbage, lettuce and carrots. Smaller production is also expected for celery, beets, shallots, spinach and lima beans...more plentiful supplies of winter sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, cauliflower, artichokes and eggplant.

### Orange Crop Better Than Average

Orange crop this season, estimated at 138 million boxes, will be about 1 percent larger than last season's crop and 17 percent above average. Estimate includes 70.5 boxes Early and Mid-season, 63.2 million Valencias, and 4.8 million tangerines. As of March 1, about 72.4 million boxes of oranges remained to be picked as against 73.6 million a year earlier.

### Drop in Grapefruit Production

Grapefruit production is estimated at 42.8 million boxes--less by 200,000 boxes than indicated a month ago, and 5 percent below last year. Remaining to be picked as of March 1, 19.1 million boxes; compares with 19.6 million a year earlier.

### Estimate for Lemons Up

California lemon crop, at 14 million boxes, is about 11 percent larger than last season's crop, also 6 percent above average. Estimate is up 3 percent from last month.

### Milk Output Continues Above Average

The 9,464 million pounds of milk produced in February is 2 percent less than in 1956 when February had 29 days, but is 14 percent above the 10 year average. On a per capita basis, production was same as a year earlier--1.99 pounds per person per day.

### Wisconsin, Minnesota Lead in Milk Output

Wisconsin led all States in February milk production with 1,380 million pounds; followed by Minnesota with 838 million; New York, 691 million; California, 547 million; and Iowa, 486 million pounds.

### Egg Output Continues Steady

The 5,022 million eggs laid in February is 3 percent less than a year earlier but about the same as the 10-year average. Shorter month accounted for most of the decrease from year earlier.

Total laid in January and February this year of 10,391 million eggs compares with 10,320 million produced in the same months last year.

### CURRENT ESTIMATES

#### Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings, by States, January 1957<sup>1</sup>

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
Maine.....	7,966	7,583	15,549
New Hampshire.....	4,506	857	5,363
Vermont.....	8,989	657	9,646
Massachusetts.....	9,950	3,362	13,312
Rhode Island.....	1,294	406	1,700
Connecticut.....	9,064	4,406	13,470
New York.....	50,664	16,476	67,140
New Jersey.....	15,002	4,792	19,794
Pennsylvania.....	48,292	14,202	62,494
North Atlantic.....	155,727	52,741	208,468
Ohio.....	51,686	29,111	80,797
Indiana.....	57,971	38,644	96,615
Illinois.....	92,059	106,448	198,507
Michigan.....	31,897	23,064	54,961
Wisconsin.....	78,388	10,878	89,266
East North Central.....	312,001	208,145	520,146
Minnesota.....	76,035	64,187	140,222
Iowa.....	160,205	65,819	226,024
Missouri.....	50,910	18,188	69,098
North Dakota.....	12,064	42,857	54,921
South Dakota.....	34,616	13,764	48,380
Nebraska.....	67,887	27,843	95,730
Kansas.....	45,531	25,387	70,918
West North Central.....	447,248	258,045	705,293
Delaware.....	6,798	1,501	8,299
Maryland.....	11,821	3,199	15,020
Virginia.....	16,684	18,238	34,922
West Virginia.....	5,649	1,428	7,077
North Carolina.....	19,243	16,298	35,541
South Carolina.....	6,908	6,865	13,773
Georgia.....	27,223	10,016	37,239
Florida.....	12,404	49,649	62,053
South Atlantic.....	106,730	107,194	213,924
Kentucky.....	18,264	52,676	70,940
Tennessee.....	15,667	24,708	40,375
Alabama.....	16,827	8,846	25,673
Mississippi.....	12,323	23,424	35,747
Arkansas.....	13,201	32,778	45,979
Louisiana.....	10,060	18,041	28,101
Oklahoma.....	23,862	12,916	36,778
Texas.....	66,484	74,071	140,555
South Central.....	176,688	247,460	424,148
Montana.....	12,936	27,430	40,366
Idaho.....	12,300	19,978	32,278
Wyoming.....	4,089	2,834	6,923
Colorado.....	27,781	16,892	44,673
New Mexico.....	4,943	6,623	11,566
Arizona.....	8,253	46,700	54,953
Utah.....	9,767	3,793	13,560
Nevada.....	3,532	779	4,311
Washington.....	16,346	33,493	49,839
Oregon.....	13,474	17,866	31,340
California.....	71,687	96,550	168,237
Western.....	185,108	272,938	458,046
United States.....	1,383,502	1,146,523	2,530,025

<sup>1</sup> All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

## Cash Receipts from Farming, United States <sup>1</sup>

Source	Jan. 1957	Feb. <sup>2</sup> 1957
	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	<i>Mil. dol.</i>
Farm marketings and CCC loans <sup>3</sup> .....	2,530	2,000
Livestock and products .....	1,384	1,200
Meat animals .....	756	
Dairy products .....	384	
Poultry and eggs .....	220	
Other .....	24	
Crops .....	1,146	800
Food grains .....	164	
Feed crops .....	316	
Cotton (lint and seed) .....	184	
Oil-bearing crops .....	101	
Tobacco .....	87	
Vegetables .....	112	
Fruits and tree nuts .....	70	
Other .....	112	
Government payments .....	44	
Total cash receipts .....	2,574	

<sup>1</sup>For comparison of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

<sup>2</sup>Preliminary.

<sup>3</sup>Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

## Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's  
Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost <sup>1</sup>	Farm value <sup>2</sup>	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1956 average .....	\$976	\$390	\$586	40 %
1956-Jan. ....	951	369	582	39
1956-Dec. ....	984	392	592	40
1957-Jan. ....	984	391	593	40

<sup>1</sup>Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>2</sup>Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

## Somewhat Less Meat This Year

A smaller output of all meat is expected this year but the total will remain relatively large for the year as a whole--second only to last year's large output. Consumption per person in 1957 is expected to fall 6 or 7 pounds below last year's record 164.7 pounds. Consumption of beef is forecast at 81 pounds per person compared with a record 84.2 pounds last year; and pork at 63 pounds, would compare with 66.8 pounds last year.

## More Broiler Hatchings

Broiler type chicks hatched in February totaled 118,679,000, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Egg type hatchings numbered 58,888,000, a decrease of 30 percent from last year.

## Layer Numbers Steady, Rate of Lay Up

Number of layers in February averaged 326 million compared with 325 million last year, but the number on March 1 totaled 322 million, about the same as a year earlier. Eggs laid per 100 layers on farms March 1 were 58.2 eggs compared with 57.4 eggs a year earlier.

## Fewer Early Lambs in Prospect

Early lamb crop is estimated at 1 percent below the 1956 number. Lambs saved per 100 ewes will probably be somewhat lower than in 1956 in the 10 important early lamb producing States. Number of breeding ewes January 1 was down in most of the 10 States--down 6 and 11 percent respectively in the two leading States of California and Texas.

For details, by leading States, see "Early Lamb Crop 1957" issued by the Crop Reporting Board, AMS, USDA.

## Over Half of Farmers Have Telephones

Nearly 52 percent of U.S. farms had telephone service on July 1, 1956, according to Crop Reporting Board's annual survey...only 25 percent in 1940.